REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on December 14, 2007 which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to place them in better form for appeal. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, FIG 2A has been amended to change a duplicate reference numeral "25" to --26--. Further, the specification has also been amended for conformance with the change to FIG 2A. A replacement sheet including FIG 2A is enclosed. Applicants respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing change.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 11 and 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 2003/0099045 (Doi). Claims 1-7 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 5,550,657

(Tanaka) in view of JP-02-221829 (Hattori). Further, claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Hattori and U.S. 6,568,820 (Ohkawa). It is respectfully resubmitted that claims 1-9 and 11-22 are patentable over Doi, Tanaka, Hattori and Ohkawa for at least the following reasons.

Doi is directed to a panoramic imaging lens 20 shown in FIG 3. As shown in FIG 1, the panoramic imaging lens has an optical axis which is perpendicular to an imaging element 7. As shown in FIG 3, and described on page 3, paragraphs [0032-0033], the panoramic imaging lens 20 has a non-reflective part 26.

As specifically recited on page 3, paragraph [0033] of Doi:

> The non-reflective part 26 is a light absorbing part formed to be black or a dark color that absorbs light but does not reflect light, a diffused reflective part formed to be a roughened surface that **diffusely reflects** light but does not regularly reflect light in a certain direction, or a combination thereof, and they are appropriately selected depending on the purpose. (Emphasis added)

That is, the Doi non-reflective part 26 has a light absorbing part and a part the diffusely reflects. There is no teaching or suggestion in Doi of light-**scattering** structure, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Assuming, arguendo, that the Doi non-reflective part 26 includes both light absorbing and scattering parts, the Doi non-reflective part 26 is **parallel** to the optical axis as clearly shown in FIG 3.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 11, amongst other patentable elements recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

> a central lens element having an optical axis and located centrally of a circumjacent mounting portion having spaced parallel surfaces that extend **perpendicularly** to said optical axis,
>
> a non-random light-scattering structure for coupling out light entering said mounting portion, said non-random light-scattering structure being **located on said spaced parallel surfaces**.

A light light-scattering structure located spaced parallel surfaces that extend **perpendicularly** to the optical axis is nowhere taught or suggested in Doi. Rather, the Doi non-reflective part 26 is **parallel** to the optical axis.

Tanaka is directed to a back-lit reflective liquid crystal display (LCD) device that includes a planar illumination unit 3 having a cold cathode tube 6, as shown in FIG 1. As correctly noted by the Examiner on page 4 of the Final Office Action, Tanaka

does not teach or suggest any light absorbing means. Hattori is cited in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies in Tanaka.

Hattori is directed to an **optical fiber** for a **temperature sensor** that includes liquid crystal material in a clad 1 surrounding a glass core 1. In the liquid crystal, scattered light changes in accordance with a used temperature area contained in the clad 2. Thus, the temperature of the Hattori optical fiber is determined by measuring the change of the transmission loss.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Tanaka and Hattori is not proper, as no one skilled in the art of imaging would turn to the Hattori temperature sensor. Even if such a combination is proper, the result of the combination is including, the Hattori clad 2 (that has liquid crystal material with a light scattering and absorption effect) **somewhere** in the Tanaka display.

There is no teaching in the combination of Tanaka and Hattori as to where exactly to include the Hattori clad 2 in the Tanaka display. Besides, why would anyone include a temperature sensor in a display?

It is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would not arrive to the present invention as recited in independent

claims 1 and 11 from the combination of Tanaka and Hattori without impermissible hindsight. Further, one skilled in the art would not arrive to the present invention even from the combination of Tanaka and Hattori, which combination does not teach or suggest where any light-scattering structure would be located.

It is respectfully submitted that Doi, Tanaka, Hattori, and combination thereof, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 which, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

> light absorbing means **adjacent** said non-random light-scattering structure, and
> light absorbing means **adjacent** said non-random light-scattering structure.

and as recited in independent claim 11, which requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

> a mounting portion extending from the lens element, said mounting portion having spaced parallel surfaces that extend **perpendicularly** to said optical axis;
> a light-scattering structure configured to couple out light entering said mounting portion, said light-scattering structure being **located on said spaced parallel surfaces**; and
> a light absorber configured to absorb light **scattered from said light-scattering structure**.

There is simply no teaching or suggestion in Tanaka and

Hattori, alone or in combination, a light light-scattering structure located spaced parallel surfaces that extend **perpendicularly** to the optical axis, and a light absorber, and light absorbing adjacent the non-random light-scattering structure, or configured to absorb light scattered from said light-scattering structure, as recited in independent claim 1 and 11. Ohkawa is cited in rejecting dependent claims to allegedly show other features, and does not remedy the deficiencies of Doi, Tanaka and Hattori.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 11 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-9 and 12-22 should also be allowed based at least on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 11.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of

the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
January 25, 2008

Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 2A)

THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101